



**WILLIAM ROCKHILL
NELSON GALLERY OF
ART and MARY ATKINS
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

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GALLERY NEWS

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS:

"MEET THE ARTIST" It isn't every day that one has a chance to meet one well-known artist face to face - so to meet a hundred and twenty of them all at once is a rare occasion indeed. Such an opportunity will be offered in the three Temporary Exhibition Galleries from February 17th through March 26th in the exhibition "Meet the Artist", presenting self-portraits of your favorite painters and cartoonists.

The exhibition was assembled by the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum of San Francisco and proved so popular that it was decided to send it on tour. Dr. Walter Heil, Director, says in the foreword to the catalogue, "With the public becoming more and more interested in what our artists are doing, it seems only natural that people would want to know more about the personalities of these men and women, especially 'what they look like'. To be sure a collection of good photographs might have answered this purposebut self-portraits give more than photographs, aside from the obvious fact that the man-made creation of the art work will forever defy the mechanical rendering. Self-portraits, being very personal documents, have always been considered among the most fascinating creations of artists. While in other fields of his activity, whatever they may be, a painter is often hampered by conditions of the task, by peculiarities of the subject matter, by the wishes and whims of his client, in portraiture sometimes by an instinctively unfavorable reaction toward the sitter, the same painter, when he stands brush or pencil in hand before a mirror, is for once scotfree to do what he darned well pleases."

Taking advantage of this freedom, the portraits range in mood from serious studies to witty and often self-ridiculing caricature. The work of many of the artists is familiar to Gallery visitors from former exhibitions; Raymond Breinin,

Waldo Peirce, Isabel Bishop, Gladys Rockmore Davis, Guy Pene Du Bois, Mangravite, Kuniyoshi, Sidney Laufman, Ernest Fiene all have been shown here; a number of others are old friends from the newspaper comic strips and magazine cartoons: Al Capp, the creator of "Li'l Abner"; James Thurber, George Petty, Soglow with his "little King", and Carl Anderson with "Henry" on his knee, present themselves in their individual styles. About a dozen of the artists are represented in the Gallery's own American collection including Benton, Fletcher Martin, Henry Varnum Poor, Reginald Marsh, Peter Hurd, and the author of the new Friends of Art purchase, Henry Mattson.

Catalogues of the exhibition, giving a brief biography of each artist, often written by the painter himself, will be for sale at the reception desk.

MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH:

During March, when two of the Wednesday evening lectures will be devoted to the art of the North American Indians, color plates of the Navajo paintings for the war ceremonial chant, "Where the Two Came to Their Father", recently given to the Gallery by Mr. John Wise of New York, will be shown in Gallery 14.

Navajo paintings, representing a very old traditional art, are a direct outgrowth of a religious emotion. Every ceremony has its own dry paintings for the healing of a specific disease, or protection against a specific danger. This chant, in the words of the Navajo who related it, is "the story of the beginning. It is full of power, good power. It is to save and protect men going to war, or into enemy country".

These brilliant, formal paintings are the most ephemeral of all art, living only in the minds of the old shamans who fashion them

with fine colored pollen and meal, letting the grains trickle in the line of the proposed design. When the chant is completed, the paintings are destroyed for the sun must not go down on them. The legend and the paintings were given to Miss Maud Oakes by Jeff King, a Navajo singer or medicine man. In recording permanently these age old symbols, Miss Oakes has made a valuable gift to American culture.

GALLERY CHANGES:

Ceramics Room: For the months of March and April, the ceramics room will feature pitchers from the Burnap Collection of English Pottery. By far the largest group in this category is the very comprehensive collection of lustre in all its many varieties of beauty.

Various Locations: Attention is called to the installation of the fine late 15th Century stained Glass Window in the alcove window on the south corridor of the first floor, where it will remain until such time as it is possible to make a permanent place for it in the proposed medieval section in the West Wing. A group of early furniture, including the fine Henri II walnut cabinet has also been installed in the alcove.

On loan from French and Company of New York is a series of four late 18th century Flemish tapestries which have been hung in the south corridor, first floor. Woven by Jan Van Der Borch, the designs are adaptations of the delightful genre scenes of David Teniers, the Younger.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES:

The 20th Century artistic renaissance in Mexico has been one of the most influential movements of the world of modern art. The artists of Mexico played an important part in the social and political development of their country as well as in its cultural advancement and the resultant strong, vigorous school has had an unmistakable influence on our own painters. This modern movement will be the subject of Miss Jackson's lecture on the evening of February

23rd. It will be followed on March 1st by a discussion of Latin American Folk Art.

For the remainder of the season, the locale moves northward to our own United States and Canada. On March 8th and 15th, Miss Louise Lebrecht of the Gallery Staff will discuss the Indian Art of North America, with particular emphasis on those Southwestern peoples whose culture reached the highest level north of the Rio Grande.

The Gallery is pleased to announce that Dr. Robert Hubbard, head of the Department of Art History at the University of Kansas City, will be guest lecturer on the evenings of March 22nd and 29th and April 5th. Dr. Hubbard, who is a native of Hamilton, Ontario, has specialized in Colonial Art of North America and his first lecture will present the French Colonial Art of Canada, a field which is far too little known in this country. On March 29th, Dr. Hubbard will discuss Post-Colonial developments in Canada and on April 5th he will open the final phase of the series on American Art, our own Colonial Painting.

FRIENDS OF ART:

The February meeting of the Friends of Art Study Group will be held in the Central Loan Gallery on Thursday, February 17th, at eleven o'clock. Miss Jackson will present the artists from the loan exhibition, "Meet the Artist".

The March meeting, on Thursday the 16th, will be held in the Print Galleries at the same hour, for a discussion of the work of William Blake.

MOTION PICTURES: The Gallery Staff wishes to thank the many persons who have written or given us verbally their expressions of appreciation of the film programs which are being presented this season. The attendance has been most gratifying and suggestions for fut-

ure showings are welcome. In this connection, however, it is not always possible for us to obtain the films requested, as some of them have not been produced in 16 mm. film.

Three exceptionally fine pictures are scheduled for the following weeks. On Friday evening, February 25th, a Spanish film, "Song of the Windmills" will be shown. The dialogue is Spanish, with English sub-titles, and the magnificent accompanying musical score is by Maestro Luna. On Sunday afternoon, February 27th, there will be two showings, at 2:15 and again at 4:15, of the famous French film, "Mayerling", with Danielle Darrieux and Charles Boyer. With it will be shown an excellent short subject, "Orchids". On March 10th we will present "La Marseillaise", the definite epic of the French Revolution. The cast includes Pierre Renoir and Louis Jouvet.

MUSICAL PROGRAMS:

Dorothea Spaeth plans an especially interesting experimental dance program for Friday evening, March 3rd. Mrs. Hunt, Miss Forsythe and Mr. deRubertis will give the third in their series of concerts on Sunday, March 19th. The complete list of musical presentations is shown in the Calendar.

FRIDAY EVENING GALLERY TALKS:

Visitors to the Gallery and the Friday Evening auditorium programs are cordially invited to attend the Gallery Talks at 7:45 p.m. Subjects and locations are listed in the Calendar.

DEPARTMENT OF JUNIOR EDUCATION:

The Saturday afternoon program for February 19th will be "Gulliver's Travels", an animated cartoon in technicolor telling of Gulliver's adventures in Lilliput. The following week, February 26th, the motion picture, "Song of the Windmills" will be presented. This Spanish operetta should appeal especially to students of High School and Junior College age. The children's program for March 4th, especially for a grade school audience,

is to be announced at a later date. On the three succeeding Saturday afternoons in March, three very interesting films for boys and girls of High School age will be shown; "La Marseillaise", a story of the origin of the French national anthem; "Rembrandt" with Charles Laughton, and "Seven Pearls of the Crown", a fascinating history of a succession of English monarchs and the story of the English crown jewels.

The Little Museum for Young Moderns:

For the remainder of the month of February, work from the Saturday morning children's classes will be on exhibition in the Little Museum. During March, the Little Museum staff plans a comprehensive exhibit of various types of war work done by the Junior Red Cross in Kansas City schools.

NEWS FROM ITALY:

Several weeks ago, a newspaper article told of an excursion into the line of fire, made by Major Paul Gardner, with the hope of rescuing a fine collection of paintings rumoured to be in a half-ruined castle. Since the place was under shell-fire and the castle badly wrecked, not to mention the possibility of mines, it proved impossible to do anything at the time. A letter to the Gallery Staff, just received, says:

"There is a sequel to the 'Bullets and Art' story. I sent the Sergeant up for the stuff last week and I am sorry to say it is not as good as was related, but I understand now the Germans took off the finest things before they mined the castle. But there was one small gem - a Manet. It is presumably not known and not published in Wildenstein. Is small, about 12x15", of a woman seated in a wicker chair, just the bust and rather strong foreshortening. She is not lovely and wears glasses, which detracts from any beauty she might have had. The proper right arm and hand are very sketchily done - to one side (continued on Page #8)

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Tues., 15 - 2:00 - Library - Asiatic Study Club
 Wed., 16 - 8:00 - Lecture - Modern South American Art, Miss Jackson
 Thurs., 17 - 11:00 - Gallery 20 - Friends of Art
 Fri., 18 - 7:45 - Gallery 24 - Talk, Miss Hughes.
 Fri., 18 - 8:15 - Concert - Pupils of Mrs. Paul Willson & Della Willson
 Sat., 19 - 2:30 - Motion Picture - "Gulliver's Travels"
 Sun., 20 - 3:30 - Concert - Pupils of Nora Lamar Moss
 Tues., 22 - 10:00 - Lounge - Corinna Delphians
 Wed., 23 - 1:00 - Library - Athena Delphians
 " 23 - 8:00 - Lecture - Modern Mexican Art, Miss Jackson
 Fri., 25 - 7:45 - Talk - Gallery 20 - "Meet the Artist", Miss Jackson
 " 25 - 8:00 - Motion Picture - "Song of the Windmills"
 Sat., 26 - 2:30 - Motion Picture - "Song of the Windmills"
 Sun., 27 - 2:15 & 4:15 - Motion Picture, "Mayerling" ✓

MARCH

Wed., 1 - 8:00 - Lecture - Folk Art of Latin America, Miss Jackson
 Fri., 3 - 7:45 - Talk - Gallery 14, Sandpaintings, Miss Lebrecht
 " 3 - 8:15 - Dance Demonstration - Dorothea Speath
 Sat., 4 - 2:30 - Children's program - to be announced
 Sun., 5 - 3:30 - Concert - Pupils of Mrs. Miles Blim
 Tues., 7 - 2:00 - Library - Asiatic Study Club
 Wed., 8 - 1:00 - Library - Athean Delphians
 " 8 - 8:00 - Lecture - North American Indian, Miss Lebrecht
 Fri., 10 - 7:45 - Talk - Gallery 26, Miss Hughes
 " 10 - 8:00 - Motion Picture - "La Marseillaise"
 Sat., 11 - 2:30 - Motion Picture - "La Marseillaise"

Sun.,	12	-	3:30	-	Concert - K.C. Conservatory
Tues.	14	-	10:00	-	Library - Book Club
"	14	-	10:00	-	Lounge - Corinna Delphians
"	14	-	1:00	-	Library - Art Study Club
Wed.	15	-	8:00	-	Lecture - North American Indian Art, Miss Lebrecht
Thurs.	16	-	11:00	-	Print Room - Friends of Art
Fri.,	17	-	7:45	-	Talk - Gallery 24, Miss Hughes
Fri.	17	-	8:15	-	Concert - Sigma Alpha Iota
Sat.	18	-	2:30	-	Motion Picture, "Rembrandt"
Sun.	19	-	3:30	-	Concert - Pupils of Mrs. Hunt and Miss Forsythe
Tues.	21	-	2:00	-	Library - Asiatic Study Club
Wed.	22	-	1:00	-	Library - :Athena Delphians
"	22	-	8:00	-	Lecture - French Canadian Art, Dr. Hubbard
Fri.	24	-	7:45	-	Talk - American Indian Room, Miss Lebrecht
Fri.	24	-	8:15	-	Program to be announced
Sat.	25	-	2:30	-	Motion Picture, "Seven Pearls of the Crown"
Sun.	26	-	3:30	-	Concert, Pupils of Claudine Lucas
Tues.	28	-	10:00	-	Lounge - Corinna Delphians
Wed.	29	-	8:00	-	Lecture - French Canadian Art, Dr. Hubbard
Fri.	31	-	7:45	-	Talk, Gallery 27 - Miss Jackson
"	31	-	8:15	-	Concert - Pupils of Mrs. Paul Willson & Della Willson

(continued from Page #6) is a tray with a carafe. The dress is gray green and the whole tonality is greenish. It is signed but does not seem to be dated. It is at the museum and they are going to clean off some of the dirt and dust and I think it will be a beauty. I shall try to get a small photo of it on my camera.

"The so-called Leonardo is a weird, hard St. John the Baptist and is unbelievably far from him. The Francia disappeared, how I cannot guess, as it was very large and heavy (This was a great Altarpiece mentioned in an earlier letter)".

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